

Camp Laney

Battle Ball, Ping-Pong, and Friendships
by Ben Mecklenborg

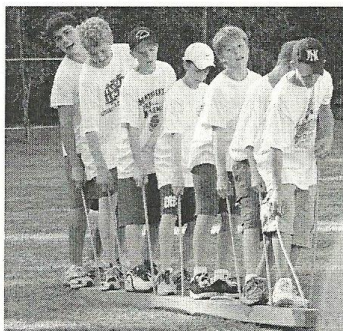
Camp Laney is a time to build friendships, a time to have fun and to stay up until nine o'clock yelling "head shot" during battle ball! Almost every MBA student can remember these exciting events at Camp Laney and relate to this year's seventh graders' experience.

It was Wednesday. The seventh graders were loading onto the busses like sheep to be slaughtered, but in the seventh graders' case, they were being shipped

to a place known only as...Camp Laney. Everyone was starving, and finally it was Laney. It was a miserable two-hour time for lunch. We ran like wolves drive of constantly singing songs and spotting a big juicy hog off in the distance.

Dr. Carro requesting rock tunes. After the two-hour bus trip was over, we rushed off the bus and found our cabins. Mr. Cooper was bragging about getting the Kangaroo Sack as he does every year, so I've heard. I was in the Skunk Bunk, Mrs.

Bakken's cabin. I got established in my cabin and ran excitedly outside to play ping-pong for immeasurable hours.



Cooperation: a new idea for seventh graders

For lunch we had delicious chicken strips, steamed vegetables (Mrs. Bakken forced us to get them), and rolls. We feasted like kings for forty-five minutes, plus an added five for not cleaning up our tables, and then

finally we got to the activities.

We were split into large groups

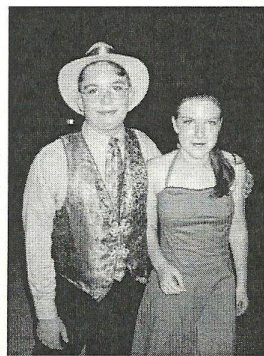
Ctd. on pg. 2

Welcome to Titi-Pu

by Nicholas Caprioli

Perhaps one of the most hilarious musicals of all time, *The Hot Mikado* by David Bell and Robert Bowman, based on *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan, is a fairly basic story, contrary to most people's opinion. Simply - boy (Nanki-Poo {son of his majesty the Mikado}, played by Maclean Grindell) flirts with a girl (Katisha, played by Helen Rakin) under a no-flirting law. The girl claims him in marriage. Boy flees and finds new girl (Yum-Yum, played by Lizzie Napier) and falls in love, and they plan to get married. With me so far? Next, Katisha reappears to claim

Nanki-Poo; the only problem is she knows that he is the son of the Mikado who is a well-meaning dictator. By now Yum-Yum knows about Nanki's secret and successfully "gets rid" of Katisha for now. Katisha goes to the Mikado and tells him that she has found his son who ran away (see second sentence). She brings the Mikado back to the town (sarcastically named Titi-Pu) where they find that Nanki-Poo has been executed by the Lord High Executioner (Koko



Gentleman and Lady of Japan, Nicholas and Sarah

Sejackayama, played by Chase Altenbern). This execution creates an issue because they have executed the heir to the throne of Japan. The only issue is that Nanki-Poo is not dead; they only faked the Certificate of Death to appease the Mikado. In the end, they convince Koko to marry Katisha, and Nanki-Poo comes

back to life and marries Yum-Yum.

I was a lesser-shown gentleman of Japan in the musical, and

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Camp Laney

Ctd. from pg. 1

of about twenty and began to work on "team building skills." Ultimately all that was done in the "team building skills" was yelling at one another and laughing at each other's dumb ideas. After all the "fun" activities,

we spent more boring, countless, hours playing ping-pong. Mr. Thurmond soon announced energetically that we were to go to the outdoor gym and play battle ball; everyone was thrilled. We raced over to the gym like a band of thieves running from the scene of a crime and got ready for chaos. Mr. Cooper explained the rules; then we I charged excitedly to the half-court line, as did all of the truly brave people. Sadly, I am far from being the fastest guy in the world, so I instantly got hit. I watched cowards hide in the back of everyone, using them as shields, and watched people get brutally pegged for twenty minutes before my team had claimed a glorious victory. To save everyone a lot of time, I got viciously hit almost every time, right at



Daniel White's last words: "This is for all you Democrats"

the beginning of every bloody match. So after two and a half hours of non-stop pain, we went slowly back to our cozy cabin, took long, warm showers, had a poor excuse for a cabin party, and went to sleep.

On Thursday morning we again played ping-pong for countless hours. After breakfast, we ran outside after being dismissed and waited anxiously for another boring thirty minutes until the Adventure Guild (a.k.a. baby sitters club) got the rope courses ready. Then we split into our groups of about twenty; we got into our less-than-comfortable harnesses, which took almost an hour, and headed nervously off to our first rope course. My group went to the brutal but fun kamikaze, a giant v-swing, and got started. I waited an hour for my magnificent turn. I went up the rope ladder and had to wait a few frightening minutes. I tensely crossed the wobbly

wooden planks and leaped off screaming like a "girly man," as did many other boys.

Next, my terrified group went to the cat walk and double-line bridge. The cat walk and double-line bridge wasn't all that exciting, but it was still pretty scary. Following that, we went to the multi-vine, a skimpy wire that was tied between two sturdy trees and had ropes for support that little by little got farther apart. Unluckily, we ran out of time before I got my turn at it, so I don't know if it is scary or not, but I imagine it is. After lunch, we went to the notorious zip-line; Daniel White likes to call it the "Shabangbang." The zip-line, if you don't already know, is where your harness is hooked up to a scanty wire and you "zip" down the line, hence the name. Anyway, I climbed the giant tree and zoomed down the line like a chimpanzee falling out of a tree. The zip-line was my favorite event because it pushed my face back and made me look like a squirrel with his mouth full of nuts.

We then went to the climbing tower which had six different challenging walls. I climbed a fairly easy wall known as "Cheese Cake." After we climbed the climbing tower, we moved to the infamous pamper pole, a thirty-five foot tall pole that you had to climb,

and once you made it to the top, you had to jump and try to reach the trapeze. It was the only event that I was extremely scared of, but I did it anyway. I climbed the treacherous



Daniel's supporters cheer him on.

Ctd. on pg. 3

2004

pole, nervously jumped off, and just missed the trapeze by a couple of inches. That was the last rope course of the retreat, and I was relieved because I had been really scared. I was glad it was over, and then I faced a few more hours of ping-pong before dinner. After dinner, we played battle ball for two hours, before the Adventure Guild told a really lame story about a snake named Nate that protected the lever that held the Earth together; don't ask. Then we went to our comfy cabins, had our daily cabin party, and went to bed.

The next day, we went to the gym to see what the Adventure Guild had in store for us. When I arrived at the gym, I found large pieces of cardboard on the ground, and discovered we were to build a boat out of them. We sat down and had the rules to the boat race explained to us. We had two hours to build our boat, so we rushed back to our cabins and gathered the supplies. We sketched our design and started working. We named our boat the *U.S.S. Bakkenator* after Mrs. Bakken. We finished it just before we had to go to the river. Unfortunately, our boat was destroyed by Andrew Phillips who jumped on it. The winner of the boat race came from the Kangaroo Sack, in the *U.S.S. Cuddly*, named after Mr. Cooper because we all know Mr. Cooper likes to cuddle. After the boat race, we cleaned up the river and like sheep, we were herded back onto the busses and left Camp Laney for MBA. Images of Laney. . .

I was going to make it. Coca-Cola here we come! I had followed all their directions and was flying (on the zip-line) at a great speed toward the tree. All of a sudden, I began spinning and

slowing down. At last, I reached out, just inches from the tree. "Oh great," I said to myself as I braced myself for the upcoming Mr. Cooper torture.

Michael Seitz

Shrieks of horror were heard from
Ab8



Dr. Carro has had enough of Camp Laney!

bunk because he saw a spider crawl up with him, making him wake up every hour to search his bed with a flashlight. **Austin Locke**

As I was begging for the ball from Will Campbell, Coach Cooper had me in target and nailed me in the eye.

Charles Herron

I felt my stomach flip as I jumped from the wobbly Pamper Pole to the greasy trapeze hanging in the air very close, yet not close enough for me. **Wiley Hunt**

Our boat snapped in two as Tank jumped in it and sank it into the dirty lake. **Joshua Liang**

Screams ripped from my throat as I came hurtling down the v-swing through sweet forest air. **Mitchell Lukens**

The yellow ball was my friend as I snuck up the sideline, found Mr. Cooper in the crowd, and whispered,

"Kill or be killed." I did both. **Robinson**

Hunt

Daniel came screaming down the huge zip-line and wham!! He slammed his legs on the platform. **Alex Apple**

Cold water stinging my back as I did a back buster off the rope swing. **Jack**

Keyser

I looked up at the dangerously tall tree and asked myself if I was truly serious about jumping off the top with only a scrawny rope to hold me up. I climbed up the ladder, the helmet on my head partially covering my eyes. As I stood on the freestanding platform with no more than three feet of leg room for two people, the only thing I thought was that if I fall off and get hurt, this camp is going with me. Before the first logical thought came into my head, I jumped off.

Jake Hymes

Hoarsely yelling "1,2,3, RIGHT-1,2,3, LEFT" to my team during our "giant feet" activity. **Matt Bracey**

The whizzing of the loose foam of the dodgeball slicing my face and the smell of smoke coming off the sizzling hamburgers. **Luke Colbert**

The thrill of the initial drop on the v-swing as the ground rushes up to meet you and then zooms away again. **Pat Killian**

A rush of joy filled my head as my rotten-smelling teammates lifted me above the odor to the bright gym lights. **Seth Akers-Campbell**

Refreshing Powerade sliding down my parched throat. **Steven Gaiffens**

Sitting at the campfire listening to the Guild guide tell the "Nate the Snake" story and laughing at the pointless ending, "Better Nate than lever." **Alex Snow**

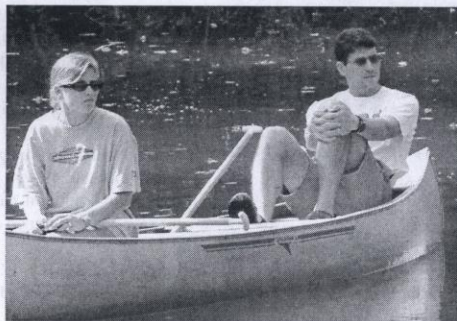
Camp Laney Moments



Steven Gaittens: King of the Jungle



Slick set-up by Paslick



Bakken and Russ in a boat that actually floats



Cardboard, plastic, and duct tape: ingredients for Rob Smith's floating boat



Tank Sank



You're mine, Cooper! Er... Mr. Cooper, Sir!

Eighth Grade Summer Trip



Some mixers are better than others.



Warren, Scott, Conrad, and Taylor



J.B. looks scornfully on those frolicking beach lovers.



There's enough J.B. for everyone, girls.



Tom preparing for a journey into the abyss

Welcome New Teachers

Magistra Ellery

by Nicholas Caprioli

The TOP OF THE HILL interviewed Magistra Ellery, a Latin teacher for the eighth and ninth grades. She takes over Mr. Bernatavitz's room as he moves to High School.

Top Of Hill: Where did you teach prior to MBA?

Magistra Ellery: Although I have been fortunate enough to tutor my peers in college-level Latin for several years, this is my first opportunity to be a full-time teacher. I am excited to be here, not only to teach Latin I and II, but also to help with the Service Club and Outing Club, and to participate as fully as possible in the life of the campus.

TOH: Where did you live prior to Nashville?

ME: Before I moved here, I lived in Sewanee, where I went to college. I am originally from San

Angelo, Texas, where my family still lives. Although I miss them and my friends there, I love Tennessee for its mountains and forests, and, of course, its people. It is a great place to hang my hat.

TOH: As of the first quarter, which period is your favorite?

ME: Which period is my favorite? I guess... You know, each class has been my favorite on different days. A successful class is one in which, as

Seneca says, *docendo discitur*. I learn more from my students every day.

TOH: What is your favorite Latin name?

ME: I enjoy that "Caligula," as in the emperor of that name, literally means "little boots" and is sometimes translated as "bootykins."

TOH: What is your favorite Latin phrase?

ME: An impossible question, really, but here's one: *Non est ad astra mollis e terris via*. ~ There is no easy way from the earth to the stars. ~ Seneca. Also, here

is one I use frequently: *Rident stolidi verba Latina*. ~ Fools laugh at the Latin language. ~

Ovid

TOH: Please Translate: *O que é esta frase em latim?*

Answer to Translation: "What is the phrase in Latin?"

Language = Portuguese

ME: This must be Portuguese, but for what I can only guess: *Quid est haec*

sententia in lingua Latina? (What is this sentence in Latin?)

TOH: What is your favorite city in Italy and why?

ME: My favorite city in Italy is, of course, the Eternal City, Rome. It is the city whose layers I have most closely studied, and one could easily live many lifetimes in Rome and never discover all its secrets. And I favor the Roma "football" (soccer) team.

TOH: Where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world regardless of money?

ME: This is way too hard. Of course, if I had an endless supply of currency, I could easily manage to live everywhere I'd like to live at some point: Antioch, Damascus, the Greek isles (Ithake or bust!), and Rome are a few of my top choices. Then again, I could be just as happy at home in Tennessee or Texas. . . "The world is too big for one dream" (Magistra Ellery).

Welcome to MBA, Dr. Carro

by George Curtis and Hershel Mehta

Dr. Gabe Carro is originally from Venezuela, and as a child, enjoyed going to the beach. He came to the United States to go to college at The University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University. Before coming to MBA, Dr.

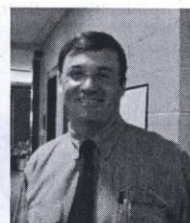
Carro taught at Belmont University.

The new science teacher has enjoyed playing golf for twenty years and

usually scores in the 81 - 86 range. He also enjoys playing the guitar and ranks "American Pie" as his favorite song.



Magistra Ellery



Dr. Carro

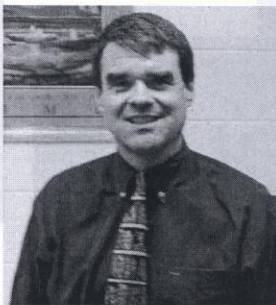
More New Faces

Dr. Rick Seay

Dr. Seay is from Nashville and attended MBA for six years. He received his BA from Vanderbilt with a double major in classical languages and theater. He received his Masters and Doctorate from TSU in Educational Administration and did graduate work in classics at Vanderbilt. He is currently teaching Latin I and Latin III; however, throughout his career, he has taught all levels of Latin up through the two AP courses, AP European History, world history, theater, speech/debate, and French. He even taught freshman English for one semester at MBA right after graduating from college.

For eighteen years, Dr. Seay taught at Hillwood High School and then was founding head of school at East Academy in East Nashville. His hobbies

and interests include theater (as director and actor, even serving a stint as theater critic for the *Tennessean* for a few years), running, music, and reading. His favorite leisure-time activity is being at his cabin located just outside of Lexington, Virginia, near the place from which his family originally came.



Dr. Seay

Mr. McMurray Returns to MBA

Will McMurray graduated from MBA in 1999 and then attended Davidson College, where he majored in history and played football. As a first-year geography teacher at MBA, he is also an assistant coach in football, wrestling, and track. Mr. McMurray enjoys running, weightlifting, movies, watching football, and playing with his golden retriever Nugget.

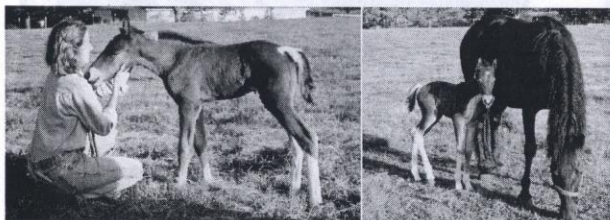


Extreme Makeover, MBA Edition: Mr. McMurray in 1995 and 2004



Also Welcome...Brighty

Mrs. Christeson is enjoying a new addition at her farm, Brighty, a Spotted Saddle Horse, born on October 4, 2004. Sassy Beauty is the proud mother.



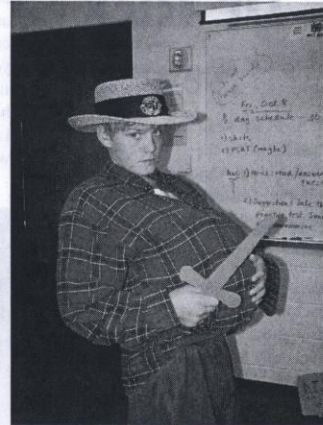
Magistra Christeson has more success teaching Latin to Brighty than certain eighth graders.

Sassy Beauty and Brighty

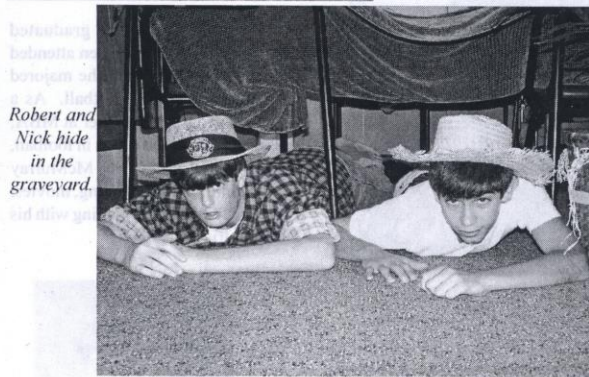
"By Hokey," It's Tom Sawyer!



Jimmy Balser gets the best kiss of his life.



Gained a few pounds over the summer, Kile?



Robert and Nick hide in the graveyard.

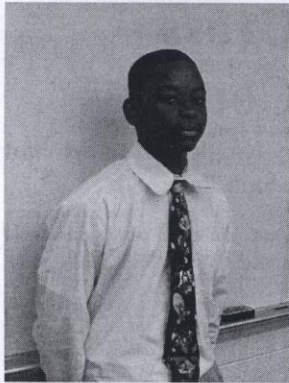
Bradford plays Muff Potter.



Tom Sawyer meets The Matrix

MBA Welcomes...

NEW 8TH GRADE STUDENTS



*Reggie
Ford*



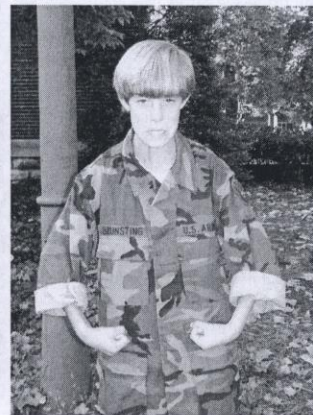
*Grant
Cothran*



Fadi Pulous



Hooper Paty



*Richard
Brunsting*

Sports

Continuing a Winning Tradition:

Seventh-Grade Football

by Tee
Griscom

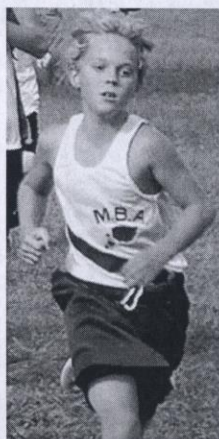
The seventh grade football team had a great first year. Over fifty players tried out and suited up for MBA. Under the leadership and expertise of coaches Sawyer, Bernatavitz, Harvey, and Jenkins, the Big Red posted a record of six wins and two losses.

The offensive side of the ball produced 176 points during the season. The offensive effort was well balanced with talented quarterbacks, quick running backs, swift receivers, and a huge offensive line. As the season progressed, the team executed their plays better, and everyone worked together as one unit. On the defensive side of the ball, the seventh grade held their opponents to 111 points. The defense was tough on the run and deadly in the secondary, resulting in many interceptions. On a final note, special teams are crucial in having a successful season. Everyone on the kickoff, receiving, and punt teams did a spectacular job in executing his responsibilities on the field. Everyone

on the team contributed to the success of the winning season and looks forward to playing next year on the eighth grade team. All of the coaches did a super job leading and bringing together a talented group of student athletes. The team is very appreciative of the coaches' time and support during the season.



Kevin Carr and Fitz Lassing



Rob Smith

Surviving Cross Country

by Knight Hammock and
Sam Page

This year's cross country team was unique. As Scott Ramsey would say, "This is our battle field, and we are its soldiers." We began the year with a win, and then the chase was on. Brentwood Middle had pulled ahead, beating us in every meet that we faced them in. But every meet we became closer to the ultimate goal: beating Brentwood Middle and winning the HVAC championship. We had a strong team of elite warriors such as Knight "Speeding Bullet" and Nick "Enthusiasm" Williams, but our secret weapon was seventh grade sensation Rob Higham. Despite a personal best from every runner and a number one finish by Rob Higham, MBA placed second to Brentwood Middle. Even though we worked extremely hard during the season, we managed to have fun along the way. Some memorable moments were Scott's ridiculously inspiring speeches and Nick getting paid to earn punishment laps. When the dust had settled and the season was finally over, each runner came away from the season with a sense of accomplishment for surviving. Thanks to our coaches, Mr. Russell and Mr. Ferrell, for a great season.

Sports

Eighth Grade Football:

A Journey to Remember

by Hayden Redd

This year, the eighth grade football players came out in the hot days of August and ended in October with a record of 6 and 1. The practices were tough, but the coaches pushed the players to their greatest potential. Coach Golenor, Coach Ardison, Coach McMahan, and Coach

McMurray lead the team to an undefeated season save falling to Brentwood Academy's behemoths. Some of the players that earned nicknames are Patrick Crum "The Train," Reggie Ford "The Impenetrable," Drew Turner

"Hollywood," Wyatt Redd "The Terminator," Leland Howe "Barrett," and Barrett Jacques, "Leeland." Unfortunately, Drew Turner is leaving MBA, but his encouragement and team spirit helped make this team successful. The main reason for the

eighth grade Big Red Football team's success was the excellent coaching and support the team received from its beloved fans. The final hurrah came on a cold rainy Thursday night. The Big Red Bowl was the crowning achievement to a spectacular season as the team defeated Grassland 17 to 0. After this game came to an end, the Corcoran family hosted a pizza party. There we thanked the coaches and watched the tapes one last time. This year's eighth grade football season is truly a journey to remember.



Michael Nunan and Teammates



Drew Turner

Sports Quiz

by Kenji Alexander

As some of you know, I know a lot about sports. So I decided to make a sports quiz. This one is mostly pretty easy, but it will get harder as the year goes on. The person with the most correct answers gets two movie tickets, and we will have a drawing if there is a tie. It's okay to look on the Internet. Good luck!

1. Where did Eddie George go to college?
2. Who is the New York Yankees' third baseman?
3. Who is the Volunteers' (UT) starting running back?
4. Who is the Atlanta Braves' shortstop?
5. What is Jevon Kearse's jersey number with the Eagles? (Hint: It's not 90.)
6. How many home runs does Barry Bonds have? (I'll count it right as long as you are within 10.)
7. Who was the #1 pick in this year's NFL Draft?
8. Who set the major league record for hits in a season this year?
9. What former MBA quarterback was involved in a quarterback controversy at the University of Florida and now plays at Furman?
10. What is Chipper Jones's real first name?

Continued...

Duffers

by J.B. Hardin

The MBA Junior School golf team had an awesome season this year with an almost undefeated record, having only two regular season match losses. The players on the golf team for the 2004 season were Robert McNeilly, Spencer Wise, Nicholas Concepcion, Connor Shope, Crawford Standard, Wade Nelson, John Floyd, and Will Overton. The manager of the golf team was J.B. Hardin. The team was made up of all Eighth graders. Our opponents included Grassland, BMS, Woodland, BA, and Ensworth. Favorite incidents involved a Cadillac Escalade, a supposed can of bug spray, and Krystals. Also, something funny this year was Nicholas Concepcion impersonating Conner Shope. Our first win was over BA. Things continued to

go well until the Warrior Open, which was not our best match. We were sixth

out of eight though we improved during the second part of season. Our only match loss occurred at the hands of Woodland. At the end of the season, we played in the HVAC Championship and tied for third. At our only practice, we messed around but still beat the coach in a bet. (Two players' total score had to beat double the coach's score.) Nicknames earned include: Robert "Three Putt" McNeilly, Nicholas "Conner" Concepcion, Nicholas "Team Clown" Concepcion, J.B. "Ball Finder" Hardin, Connor "It's not me" Shope, Crawford "I can hit the ball farther than you can" Standard



J.B., Fetch! That won't be easy to find.

Homeroom Representatives

7th Grade

Mr. Cooper: Andrew D'Aquila
Mr. Wims: Hayden Wieck, Conner Hastings
Mrs. Steele: Campbell Haynes, Daniel Todd
Mr. Russell: Alvin Kim, Steven Rocco
Mr. Brown: Fitz Lassing, Richard Wall
Mrs. Bourland: George Curtis, Tyler Paslick
Mrs. Seiders: Harry West, John Andrews, (V.P.) Cole Doster

8th Grade

Mr. Anderson: Reed Stanberry, Connor Shope
Mrs. Christeson: Barrett Jacques, (V.P.) Drew Turner, Will Holt
Mr. Russ: Scott Ramsey, Jonas Hill
Mrs. Pettus: Hicks Woolwine, Wade Nelson
Mr. Woolsey: Hooper Paty, Owen Lipscomb
Mr. Ferrell: Martin Luplow, Patrick Crum
Mr. Spiegel: Matt Wieck, Wade Longmire

Ctd. from pg. 1

let me tell you, it had to be the most fun thing I have ever done. There was a grand total of four junior schoolers from MBA in the musical; in addition, there was one "techie." Don Orr, Clayton Cothran, and I were in the musical, and Ben Gregory was the "techie." Everyone was helpful and kind to the "new kids on the block." If you ever get a chance to do a musical at MBA, my advice is to do it, and you won't have any regrets.

Movie Reviews

Cellular

by Austin Archer

While MBA played McCallie in Chattanooga, the Cross Country team had just finished their championship meet and was not able to attend the game. I, however, instead of wasting a Friday night, decided to see *Cellular*. This movie starts off with the kidnapping of a wealthy white female science teacher who is taken and held in an attic against her will. The only objects in the room are a desk and a broken phone. Calling upon her science skills, the woman, Jessica Martin, rebuilds the phone and is able to tap wires together and make a random, lucky call. A young man named Ryan answers the call, and Jessica asks him to help her escape. The man is dragged around town, forced to steal a phone charger and a car in addition to driving around town above speed limits on the left side of the road. The movie had its funny one-



liners but stuck to a plot of action and suspense. All in all, the movie was entertaining but became predictable with the repeated car scenes and running around town to reach a certain point before the kidnappers. This movie stars Kim Basinger, Chris Evans, and Jason Statham and was released into theatres on September 10.



Napoleon Dynamite

by Bradford Norton

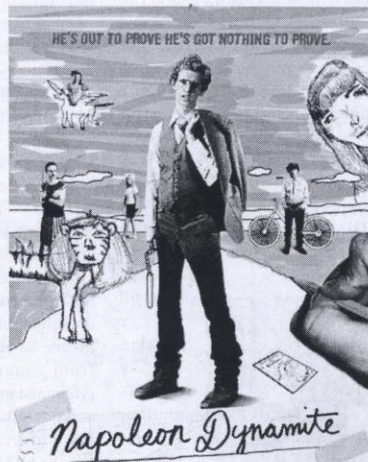
Napoleon Dynamite was possibly the best movie I have ever seen. So many scenes of this movie are hilarious. Jon Heder, an actor who has not been in any really big movies except *Napoleon Dynamite*, portrayed an awesome character.

Napoleon Dynamite (yes, this is actually his name), is probably the biggest nerd in his high school due to all the weird things that he obsesses over and does. As far as any viewer knows, he only has two friends, Pedro, the new kid at school who has the "sweetest bike ever," and Deb, a girl who makes portraits.

The plot is really not there. There is not really any plot at all. The main event

that is going on in the movie is the election for a class president. Pedro is competing against Summer, the most popular and snobbiest girl in the school.

If you have not seen *Napoleon* in theaters, then you will have to wait for it at your nearest Blockbuster. You should probably listen to other people's conversations on this movie, and eventually you can pretend like you have seen it. If you have seen it, points for you.

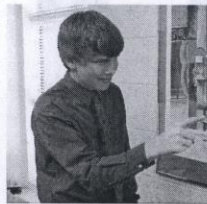


Editorials

Bush is the Man

by Will Rowland

I am for Bush. He has created jobs and helped the country recover from the disaster of 9-11. Kerry can't figure out where he stands on anything. He voted for funding, then voted against it. He claims he will reduce the deficit created by the war, but he has proposed a \$1.8 trillion health care plan. If Kerry is elected, people who own or work for small businesses, such as my family, will have a high chance of losing their jobs, or have a harder time making a living. Kerry says he will fight a more "sensitive" war in Iraq. How do you fight a "sensitive war"? People die in war. Nothing stops that. The liberal media makes it sound like we have lost millions of people in Iraq; actually, we have lost fewer than 1,500 men and women. In comparison, 6,000 Marines were killed in the battle at Iwo Jima, a battle which was less than a week long. For almost two years, the Bush administration has done very well in the war in Iraq. Kerry talks of a struggling economy, but right now, the economy is sky rocketing compared to what it was right after 9-11. Many criticize Bush for his less-than-intelligent comments, but he's a YALE GRADUATE! People have forgotten that no matter if Bush makes some



mistakes, he's still the President. He deserves another four years.

The Other Side of It All

by Sam Page

Though not as vocal as the Junior School's own liberal anti-war extremist Chunbum, I do associate myself with the Democratic Party. Although I do not usually like kids our age expressing political biases due to the overbearing influence our parents, I like to think of myself as not falling into that category. My parents are ultimately split down the middle as far as politics go, but my opinion is my own. The issue I am most concerned with is the war in Iraq. My opinion is basically as follows: though part of the decision to invade Iraq may have been due to misleading information, there are many other reasons we should not have taken the course of action that we did. First and foremost is that we had another war going on in Afghanistan, with a clear objective that we did not complete. Secondly, we did not have significant international support which conveyed the message if it looks suspicious, we will invade it, creating an arrogant world police-like foreign policy. Though the argument will always be countered with blame the CIA, I still think there was not sufficient information to do something as drastic as invade a country, and stray from our goal in Afghanistan. Although we make similar arguments, I am not really a Kerry fan...so GO NADER!

Re-elect BUSH

8th Grade Opinions

Harrison Stringfellow: Go for Bush because Kerry actually said, "I will tell you everything you need to know."

Zach Cooke: I'm for Bush because he fights against terrorism, and I support Operation: Iraqi Freedom.

Baker Mulherin: Bush has a plan. (And Jimmy Balser supports Kerry.)

Max Moltini: We need Bush. Kerry has the DULLEST voice.

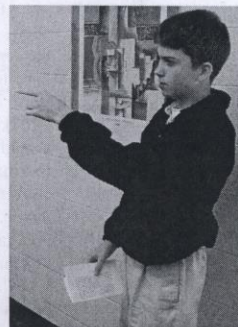
Elect John Kerry

8th Grade Opinions

Jimmy Balser: Go Kerry! Bush is driving us into a deep hole, but he won't accept responsibility!

Zach Brickner: Bush is the only president that has lost jobs during his term. Kerry had war experience and is for the American people. Kerry is pro-choice.

Bradford Norton: Balser is right. Everyone should ask himself/herself: Am I better off now than I was four years ago? Then, go vote for Kerry.



Mr. Spiegel

Mr. Spiegel: A Pedagogical Master by Chunbum Park

Mr. Spiegel is a very effective and entertaining teacher. Not only is he an Earth Science teacher, but he is also a wrestling coach. He's very devoted to conservation and believes that humankind might be one of nature's failed experiments because we often fail to take care of the earth. He runs Recycle MBA and MBA Globe.

Mr. Spiegel is also a fan of Dell and Mitsubishi products. He brags about having a Mitsubishi projector for several years, but, sadly, a few days after his victorious claim, the Mitsubishi projector light bulb exploded. I said, "It must be a Dell light bulb," to which he replied, "Better than an IBM light bulb."

One day, I did my homework "my" way, not his way, and got totally different answers. He took my mechanical pencil and wrote down the steps that would lead to the correct answer. However, before he could

finish, the lead broke. "It must be an IBM lead," he said. Because I have mentioned IBM everyday in his classroom, except for the first day of school, he has gotten tired and asked me to "have peace." (But we do not have peace, and the war was not over.)

He calls IBM ThinkPads (notebook computers) "StinkPads" because he has a hard time getting in the floppy disks. When I told him that those

"StinkPads" have a magnesium cover, he said, "It is called plastic." I replied, "It is co-mp-zite." "It's composite, Chunbum," he fired back.

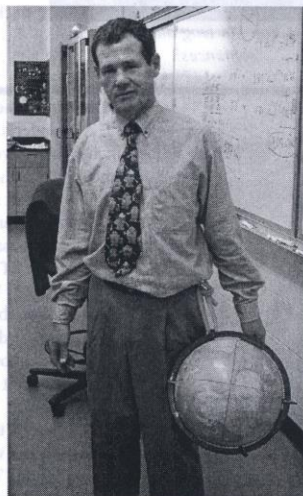
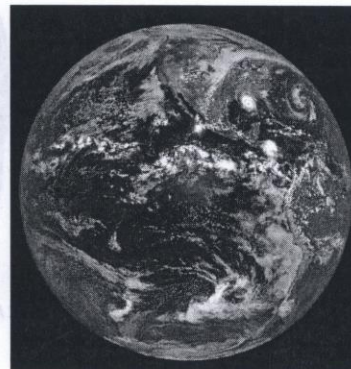
To teach us how to solve the distance from the North Pole to Nashville, he sent us back to the "golden year" of second grade when we learned the number line; the problem for the distance between the North Pole and Nashville is apparently related to the number line. Also, he planned to astound his students by prewriting "I did it differently" on the

board so that when his one of his students told him that he did it differently, he could slide the board and let the words be shown: "Mr. Spiegel = Psychic".

Because this article



could easily turn into "All about Mr. Spiegel." I'll make it short by quoting some of his sayings. "It must be IBM suction poles." "The Z rule. . . The geometry guys know about it." "There are Australian dudes here from time to time." "You still have the car?" "Don't worry, guys. It won't be during your life time." "This is a knife. This is a nail polisher. . . And THIS!!! It's for boogers. . . Oh yeah. . . This is also for ear-wax."



Features

Mr. Dog

by Carol Steele, Owner

What makes people stop their car and get out to pet it? What pirouettes for his food or a treat? What would someone fly to Texas to bring home? Why, Mr. Dog of course! If you love dogs, you will be crazy about the Coton de Tulear. Once kept by pirates and royalty, these sturdy little dogs have few health problems, love people and other animals, and steal the show wherever they go. People come up every time we go out for a walk and say "Oh, this must be Mr. Dog?" Cotons are not well known in this country and can be difficult to find, but they will steal your heart. I learned about them from Knight Hammock and his family. This a dog that has hair instead of fur so it doesn't shed. They are also supposed to be good for people who have pet allergies, as they do not have dander. The Coton is

very catlike in the way it plays and pounces. You may say that Mr. Dog is an odd name, but it was part of the deal. My husband agreed on the condition that the puppy be a male called Mr. Dog. The name comes from one of his favorite childhood books in the Hollow Tree series. Therefore, Mr. Dog is officially Mr. Dog of Tara.

There are a number of websites dedicated to the breed. Look into it, if for no other reason than to see some beautiful dogs

and some that just look different. Yes, all that hair has to be combed often, but not as often as one would expect. The Cotons that are show dogs are never clipped and should have a "fall," the

hair that hangs over its face. Having always been a Dachshund fan, I can say we didn't make a mistake. This is not a dog that can be on its own for long periods, but he is a delight and will make you laugh when you see him running down the hall. He is a 12" - 13", 9 - 13 pound, sheepdog looking package of fun.



But, can Mr. Dog diagram sentences?

Dining Out

at J. Alexander's

by Daniel White

One of my favorite restaurants is J. Alexander's. I like the upscale ambiance, and the food is delicious. Some of my favorite menu choices at J. Alexander's are Grilled Salmon, Salmon Caesar Salad, Jack's Chicken Finger Platter, Filet Mignon, Millionaire Steak Sandwich, Spinach Queso, Cheesecake (if they have any left), and lastly, the VERY Best Chocolate Cake. It REALLY is the very best!!



Daniel has visions of J. Alexander's cheesecake.

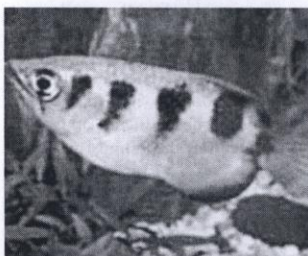
Here are some tips on eating at J. Alexander's: (1) Try eating lunch because you can get the same food at a cheaper price. (2) If you want that steak that your mom says you can't have, ask for one of the steak sandwiches. It is the same cut of meat but at a lower price. (3) This may be a biased opinion, but try eating at the J. Alexander's in Cool Springs. This location has the same menu, but the prices are generally lower.

If you haven't tried eating at J. Alexander's, I would certainly recommend it. There are two convenient locations: across from Target on White Bridge Road and on Cool Springs Boulevard, next to the mall and near Famous Dave's.

Bon Appetite!

Features

**Red fish, Blue fish.
Have a sick fish?
Want a new fish?
Contact Caldwell
Buntin**



Caldwell Buntin, MBA's resident expert on fish, recently had some questions that even he could not answer. So he wrote to Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine, and they published four of his questions. Here are two of his questions:

Q: Over the last few weeks, I have noticed that one of my yellow-tailed damselfish has lost its blue coloring and turned black. It hasn't been picked on, but I know my damselfish have mated,

and this one is a male. Could being a male have anything to do with it?

A: It sure could, as many male damselfish make a dramatic color transformation when in a spawning mood. In most damselfish species, the male tries to entice females to lay eggs in a nest which he alone guards. In fact, he will chase the female away once she lays her eggs! Black is one of the colors common to male damselfish that are guarding eggs, so I suspect that your male is in the mood and looking for trouble.

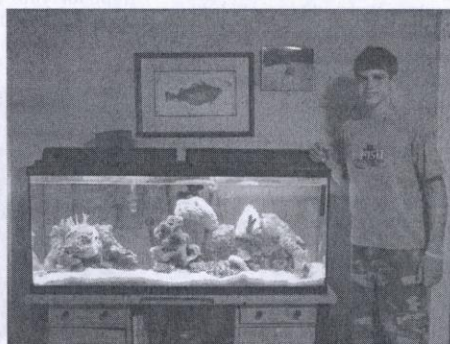
Q: I recently bought an archerfish, and I have not been able to feed it. I tried putting flies in the tank, but my mudskipper caught them

before my archerfish could eat them. Then I tried tying foods like tubifex, brine shrimp, and chicken livers to string, and though it could get them off the string, it spat all of these foods. And I have tried putting food on a feeding stick, but it didn't even try to get the food off the stick. Now, from all the failed attempts at feeding my archer, the algae in my brackish tank has gone out of control, and my water quality has

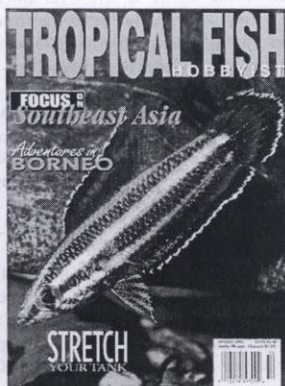
slipped. What would you suggest I do?

A: You may have to separate the mudskippers from the archerfish until it becomes accustomed to eating in the aquarium. If you don't want to place them in a tank of their own, you should be able to put in some sort of divider, but it is difficult to design one that will keep out the mudskippers. If you can't accomplish that, the only solution is to separate the archerfish from the mudskippers.

Generally speaking, archerfish are not finicky eaters,



considering that they are adapted to eating whatever insects they can gun down in the wild. Nevertheless, your best bet is to start with insects, such as millers or flies. Once they habituated to eating whatever falls in the water, they will normally take whatever hits the surface, including fish pellets. One reason that they are normally eager eaters is that in the wild they rush for whatever hits the surface, as they don't defer to any fellows who may have actually shot down the insects with the "pellets" of water that an archerfish is able to generate by the special groove in the top of its mouth. E-MAIL CALDWELL by typing "Caldwell Buntin" into First Class



Video Game Review

Star Wars Battlefront: Live the War

By: Daniel Green

Star Wars Battlefront is all about living the war. From the epic battle on Hoth to the comedic battle on Endor with the fuzzy little bears called Ewoks, you become a soldier on the battlefield. Battlefront is an overall spectacular combination of action and the Star Wars tradition. You can play this game in single player mode, split screen, and on XBOX Live (I am not sure about PS2). In single player, you can play the Historical Campaign, Galactic Conquest, or Instant Action. In the Historical Campaign, you can choose to experience either the Clone Wars (Episodes I to III) or the Galactic Civil War (Episodes IV to VI). In the Clone Wars, you move from the Siege of Naboo to the Battle of Geonosis to battles I have not yet gotten to. During the Clone Wars, you fight as Trade Federation droids, the Clone Troopers, and the CIS droids. If you despise Gungans, during the Battle for Naboo, you can slaughter thousands of them. It is actually a good way to take out your anger. The droids are weak, and you will probably die many times before achieving victory if playing with them.



The Clone Troopers are quite strong and can take some damage. The Galactic Civil War has the Rebels and the Empire face off. You play on both sides throughout the campaign.

Split screen is obviously a two-player game. The players can fight on the same side or on different sides. Only two players can play in split screen. You can play any battle.

Galactic Conquest is where you are an army of your choice, and you try to conquer planets. There are two battles to a planet and for each planet, you get a special ability (i.e., a Jedi will fight for your team). After four victories, you will be able to use your army special weapon (i.e., the Empire

you are defeated and the same for your opponent if theirs reaches zero. When you respawn, you must choose a friendly command post to respawn to. If a team has no command posts, reinforcements can no longer respawn. A ticker will then appear at the top, which will read "victory in" or "defeat in" and then count down from twenty to zero.

I interviewed my brother about the game with his semi-professional (fourth grader at Overbrook) views. He said what he likes the most about playing the game is the constant action and the Jet Troopers (troopers with jetpacks). He also said the most difficult part for him was defeating the Empire with the

Ratings out of 10 Points

Category	My Ratings	Friend's Ratings	Gamespot's Ratings
Gameplay	9.5	9.7	8.0
Sound	9.0	10.0	8.0
Graphics	9.5	10.0	7.0
Value	10.0	10.0	8.0
Total:	9.5	9.9	7.8

unleashes the power of the Death Star and destroys a planet). Obviously, if you conquer all the planets, you win the game.

Instant Action allows you to pick any battle in the game and play it with any army. This game mode is fun because it does not matter if you win or lose, and it is a great way to improve your skills.

As in Halo, you are able to respawn as many times as you need to although your reinforcements bar goes down. The bar is located at the top of the screen. When your bar reaches zero,

Rebels at Hoth. When I asked him his favorite feature, he said it was being able to use over thirty Star Wars vehicles ranging from the highly destructive AT-ATs to the quick and effective speeder bikes. He suggested that players should be careful when using the speeder bikes at Endor because it is extremely easy to hit a tree and explode in a large ball of fire.

I highly recommend this game to lovers of Star Wars and non-stop violence. So of course, this game is appealing to most of us at MBA, especially because of the enjoyably gory aspects of the game. If you have a chance to rent or buy this game, do so. You will not be disappointed. It is available for XBOX, PS2, and Gamecube.

Spirit Week



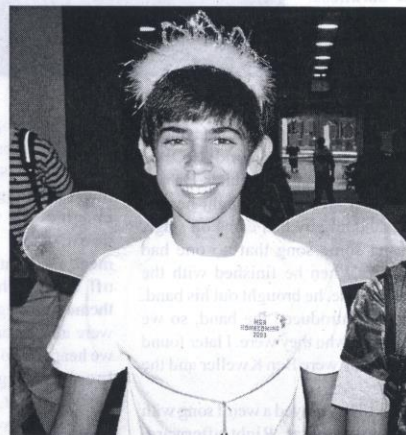
Freedom of Expression



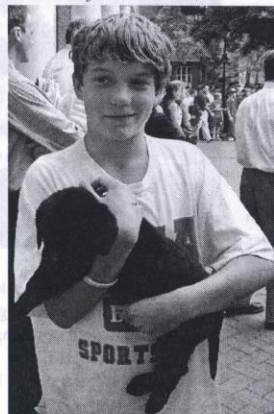
Spirited Ladies of MBA



The wolf man and his bride



Nick Williams gets in touch with his fairy side.



*Cambell
Haynes
and
Champ*



*Gray looks
good in
camo.*

Incubus Concert

Incubus!

by Hicks Woolwine

Sunday, October 3, was the concert to rule all concerts: Incubus!

My friends and I split a suite at Gaylord for this event. We sat down and prepared for the opening band. A light went off, and the crowd cheered. Another light went off. Finally there was total darkness. We looked down to the stage and saw a lone guitar player with an acoustic guitar in hand. He began strumming it like crazy. It was one of the worst sounds in the world! He tried to play it like an electric guitar. He was so bad that, at first, I thought he was some random guy that came on stage. He sang some song that no one had heard of. When he finished with the infernal noise, he brought out his band. He never introduced the band, so we had no idea who they were. I later found out that they were Ben Kweller and the Bens.

They played a weird song with the acoustic guitar. Right afterward, Ben Kweller, the lone guitar guy, said, "Where's that electric guitar at? Oh. Here it is," in a strange voice. Someone in the suite said, "I think he's on drugs." Immediately following this comment, Ben said, "I'm not on drugs or anything." They played a few more songs, all with the same guitar lick. They were almost the same song over and over. Then a second guitar player stole a Hendrix solo. It was that bad. They finally put an end to the torture

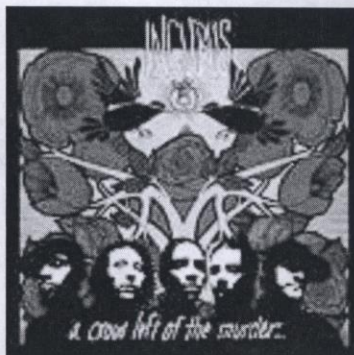
after playing their last song, which was the same guitar lick from before, only backwards. These guys were so bad that the mosh pit wasn't even moving. The mess had ended at last.

The awesome food came. We received a huge plate of cookies, really



good hot dogs, fresh fruit, good barbecue chips, and a giant sandwich with peppers, steak, chicken, and pretty much anything else you can imagine. We woofed it all down. After the fantastic meal, the lights began to go off again. Then the Halo theme song began to play. We were all laughing. Suddenly we heard a cool guitar line as Incubus began playing *Pistola*. Next, they played "Nice to Know You," which had perfect lighting effects at the transitions from the heavy parts to the mellow parts. They then launched into "Wish You Were Here." On the line "The sky resembles a backlit canopy, with holes punched in it," a screen behind the stage lit up like the night sky. It was truly awesome! They began some songs from one of their older CDs, *S.C.I.E.N.C.E.*, and did them well. They went through

the rest of the night perfectly. Some notable performances were "Talk Shows on Mute," "Southern Girl," "Megalomaniac," "Stellar" (which they added an extra verse to), and "Sick Sad Little World." They played nearly every song from their new CD, *A Crow Left of the Murder*. A great part of the concert occurred when the lead singer, the drummer, and the bass player started a random drum solo. The lead singer pulled out some bongo drums, and the bass player set up a mini drum set. It was an amazing sight. One thing I did not like about the concert was that Incubus did not play enough of their older songs, mainly from their CDs *Make Yourself*, and *Morning View*. They also did not use an acoustic guitar on their song "Drive," one of their best songs, which completely ruined the experience. They ended the concert with "Megalomaniac," "Southern Girl," and "Under My Umbrella." It was a wonderful concert. Ups: Many good songs played,



amazing drum solo, mixed well. Downs: not enough old songs, did not play their best songs, Ben Kweller was HORRIBLE!

Score: 9.5 out of 10

Around Campus

October 29

8th Grade Family Tailgate (6:00 pm)

November 6

7th and 8th Grade Service Project with Harpeth Hall (9:00 am to 11:00am)

November 16

National Math Exam (8)

November 24 to November 29

Thanksgiving Break

December 2 to December 5

Play: Blood Wedding

December 17

Winter Break Begins



Football Favorites Poll



Robert McNeilly: SMU because they are in Dallas. Yea, don't mess with Texas. Plus, my sister goes there.

Daniel Green: Florida Gators. My grandparents influenced me to like them, and it's fun to spite my parents who both went to UT. The Gator chomp is amazing.

Houston Creighton: Nebraska Tech because they beat Vandy, I think. . .but Vandy stinks so I like any team that beats Vandy. . .which is every team. (Houston, don't be so MEAN!)

Joseph Hach: UT Vols because I have been born into the tradition, but I also like Alabama. They are both fun to watch.

Drew Turner: Washington – they're ballers!

Warren Sevigny: Notre Dame – they're amazing!

Will Andrews: UNC because that's where I want to go.

Barrett Jacques: Wisconsin. Badgers rule.

Hooper Paty: Vanderbilt (so there, Houston). I have grown up watching them, and my dad played MLB there.

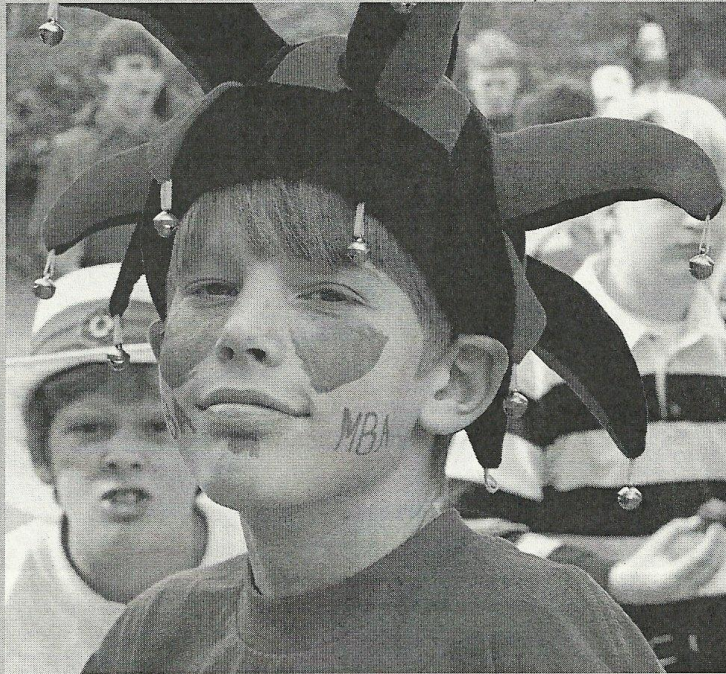
Conrad Gray: UT because they're the university of the untouchables. And, they're SO smart.

Joseph Sloan: Tennessee Vols because of the tradition of playing in front of 108,000 fans on primetime TV. Also, you get a free pass in class to make a good grade. Erik Ainge is my hero.

Max Moltini: UT. They are geniuses, and good at both football and partying.

Spencer Wise: UT because Kevin Burnett OWNED Georgia.

The Back Page



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